

REMARKS

With the concurrently-filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE), claims 1 and 2 are now amended as proposed in the July 31, 2002 Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Applicants submit that the claims are now allowable, as discussed in the Remarks of the July 31, 2002 Response.

Applicants now respond to the September 12, 2002 Advisory Action, issued in response to the July 31, 2002 Response after final rejection. In particular, applicants respond to the following handwritten text on page 2:

It is also not clear as how “said return plate is thicker than an entering depth of the high frequency current.”

Applicants respectfully disagree that this statement from the claims is not clear. First, the thickness of the return plate is measured in units of length. Secondly, as is well-known in the art, high frequency current often does not flow through the entire cross-section of its conductor. Instead, the current may flow only in the portion of the cross-section bounded by the exterior and innermost extent of its entering depth (sometimes referred to as “skin depth”¹). This entering depth, like the

¹The penetration depth of high frequency current is a function of the electromagnetic properties of the conductor and the frequency of the current therethrough. This phenomenon, sometimes referred to as the “skin effect of the current,” is a feature of electromagnetic induction heating.

thickness of the return plate, is also measured in units of length. The text added to the claim describes the return plate thickness (measured in units of length) being greater than the high frequency current entering depth (also measured in units of length).

In view of the preceding explanation, applicants respectfully submit that the cited statement from the claims is sufficiently clear. No further clarification should be necessary.

In view of the amendments and remarks above, applicants now submit that the entire application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowability is hereby requested. If for any reason it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension, or any other fees which may be due, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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